



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, FMF
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IN REPLY REFER TO
IMEFO 3574
G-3
4 Dec 03

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ORDER 3574

From: Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force
To: Distribution List

Subj: I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (I MEF) ORDER ON SMALL ARMS
TRAINING UTILIZING LIVE AND BLANK AMUNITION

1. Authority. Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.
2. Applicability. This order applies to all U.S. military and civilian personnel assigned, attached, serving with, or performing I Marine Expeditionary Force duties in CONUS or OCONUS.
3. Purpose. To establish mandatory requirements and standards for I MEF units conducting small arms firing with live ammunition followed by training with blank ammunition. The M4 carbine, the M16A2 rifle, the M249 SAW, the M240G machinegun and the M2HB .50 machinegun are covered by this order. 9MM simulated munitions (DODICs AA12 and AA21) used for training with the paintball conversion kit for the M4 carbine and the M16A2 rifle are not within the scope of this order.
4. Commanding General's Intent. My intent is to establish I MEF procedures that ensure the safe transition from live ammunition to blank ammunition during small arms training. The procedures established by this order are mandatory. I MEF personnel who violate this order may be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
5. Endstate. Adherence to this order will prevent accidents caused by the negligent use of live ammunition during training requiring blank ammunition.
6. Effective Date. This order is effective upon receipt.
7. Procedures
 - a. It is prohibited to conduct small arms training with live ammunition followed by training with blank ammunition on the same calendar day. Small arms training with live ammunition may be followed by training with blank ammunition on subsequent calendar days provided that the procedures in paragraph 7.b. below are followed.
 - b. The following inspection procedures are required whenever small arms training with live ammunition is followed by training with blank ammunition:

Subj: I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (I MEF) ORDER ON SMALL ARMS
TRAINING UTILIZING LIVE AND BLANK AMUNITION

(1) THE RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO) WILL ESTABLISH AN INSPECTION SITE. The purpose of the inspection site is to collect and account for all live ammunition before issuing blank ammunition for the next training event. Adequate space, illumination and time are needed to properly operate the inspection site.

(a) The inspection site will contain three stations which will operate sequentially under the direct supervision of the RSO:

1-DOWNLOAD STATION. The RSO supervises the removal of all unexpended live rounds from magazines, uniforms and equipment.

2-INSPECTION STATION. The RSO supervises pat-down inspections and magazine checks.

3-ISSUE STATION. The RSO supervises the issue of the correct type of ammunition for the next training event.

(2) THE RSO WILL SUPERVISE THE DOWNLOAD STATION.

(a) The RSO will ensure that all participants receive proper instructions regarding range procedures and the requirements of this order.

(b) The RSO will ensure that all participants use the buddy system to download unexpended ammunition from magazines, pouches, uniforms and equipment.

(c) The RSO will use a roster provided by the training unit OIC to ensure that all participants are accounted for at this station.

(d) The RSO will ensure live rounds are physically segregated and stored in properly marked containers.

(3) THE RSO WILL SUPERVISE THE INSPECTION STATION.

(a) The RSO will ensure that all inspectors receive proper instructions regarding range procedures and the requirements of this order.

(b) The RSO will ensure that a thorough pat-down inspection is conducted and that all individual clothing and pockets are inspected.

(c) The RSO will ensure a detailed magazine check is conducted for all weapons.

(d) All individual equipment will be displayed and inspected by the RSO or his/her designated safety assistants.

(e) The RSO will use a roster provided by the training unit OIC to ensure that all participants are accounted for at this

Subj: I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (I MEF) ORDER ON SMALL ARMS
TRAINING UTILIZING LIVE AND BLANK AMUNITION

station.

(4) THE RSO WILL SUPERVISE THE AMMUNITION ISSUE STATION.

(a) The RSO will ensure the correct ammunition is issued for the next training event.

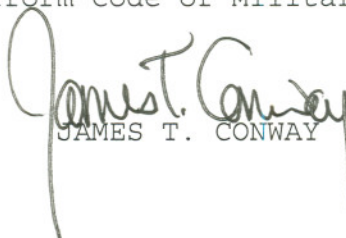
(b) The training participants will ensure that their magazines are loaded with the correct ammunition.

(c) The RSO will ensure a test fire is conducted if feasible.

(d) The RSO will use a roster provided by the training unit OIC to ensure that all participants are accounted for at this station.

8. Safety is a paramount concern. All officers, SNCOs and NCOs have a duty to supervise the safe conduct of training. The transition from live ammunition to blank firing is a situation where failure to closely supervise at all levels could lead to the serious injury or death of a Marine. Unit commanders will ensure that OICs and RSOs are in compliance with this order and governing regulations. This order is in effect in order to prevent training accidents from occurring.

9. Punitive Order. This order is punitive. Persons subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice who violate this order may be punished under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.


JAMES T. CONWAY

Distribution: List I/II